Reply.—In regard to depositions, it is inevitable that in certain cases clerks will have to be left to take them down, though this should be allowed only when unavoidable and it is desirable to minimise the number of such cases as far as possible. Even in judicial cases the presiding officer can at times authorize clerks to do this work for him. Instructions will however issue to secure correctness and remove irregularities.

As regards the disposal of revenue cases, in addition to what has been said already, I may add that returns are being called for from the officers concerned to see how long each matter has been pending with them and notice is being taken of inordinate delays. It is hoped that such supervision will tend to reduce the evil complained of.

27. Demand notices to be served through Provertikars and their charge made payable with reference to the person and not to the number of pattahs.

Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (Nedumangad) stated that the present practice of sending demand notices direct from the taluk gave rise to large sums being paid by ryots living in the distant parts of the taluk as fees, even though the actual tax in arrears was in many cases comparatively small. He suggested that if the notices were caused to be served through Provertikars the loss would be equal to all. Further, demand notice fees were now calculated and made payable with reference to each pattah on which payment became due and not with reference to the person who held a number of them together and who was solely responsible for the payment of fees to Government. The member requested that the latter course as being the more convenient to the ryots might be adopted.

Reply.—As regards the agency for serving demand notices, it is provided by section 46 of the Revenue Recovery Regulation (I of 1068) and para 2 of the rules framed under it which relates to this matter is in keeping with it. This question came up before Government in another connection and it was found that the present procedure could not be modified. The distance is calculated not from the Provertikar's office but from the Taluk Cutcherry from which the notice issues. This is the practice in British India also.

In regard to the second point, the practice of treating the pattah as the unit seems to be the best one. There will be many difficulties in taking the person as the unit in such cases.

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